

WHY PROTECT WATER RESOURCES?

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With increasing population growth and associated water needs in Alabama, as well as the region's susceptibility to extreme drought events, there exists a real possibility in the future of depleting surface and groundwater supplies if they are not managed in a holistic and reasonable way. Depletion of water resources has major implications beyond fulfilling the needs for humans.

Protection of water resources for the long term is much like saving for retirement; it takes a sustained effort of saving, investing, and managing to acquire sufficient financial resources to retire adequately. Securing water resources, both quality and quantity, is no different. Investment of time, action, and resources to maintain and improve current water resources assures water for the future. Good stewardship, through (1) reducing pollution, (2) using water efficiently for agricultural, commercial, and

domestic purposes, and (3) assuring that aquatic habitat is sufficient to sustain fish and wildlife, passes on a reliable water resource to future generations.

Management of water resources is best accomplished holistically across an entire watershed or drainage basin due to the complex relationship of natural and human processes and activities that impact each other, in some cases from a great distance. This includes both land and water resources, since land use can have significant impacts on water resources and related ecosystems.

In the final analysis, it is up to us as individuals to do our part to assure that water resources are managed properly through our individual and collective actions locally, in industrial processes, on the farm, in our timberlands, and in our communities. ♣

Oftentimes people pollute water and don't know they are doing it. Here are some things you can do to help:

- Wash the family car on the lawn, not on the road or driveway.
- Perform regular maintenance on your car.
- Never dump anything down the storm drain! It is meant only for rainwater.
- Only use the amount of fertilizer and pesticides recommended by the manufacturer.
- Don't litter!
- Maintain your septic system.
- Don't pour grease down the drain.
- Use drought-tolerant plants for landscaping.
- Use water wisely, and encourage others to do the same. This will conserve water, as well as the size of the water bill!



Goal of the North River Watershed Project:
 Improvement of water quality for the benefit of drinking water, habitat, recreation and commercial uses and avoid over-regulation through proactive activities.

For information about the North River Watershed, events, volunteer opportunities, or other ways to help,

- visit www.northriverwatershed.org
- Send an email to northriverwatershed@hotmail.com
- Or write to
 North River Watershed Project
 c/o Cawaco RC&D
 2112 11th Avenue South, Suite 541
 Birmingham, AL 35205

Visit Cawaco Resource, Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) at www.cawaco.org

Visit the Alabama Clean Water Partnership at www.cleanwaterpartnership.org



Mural of the North River Watershed, created by Holy Spirit Elementary 4th grade class in 2013.

